

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5874

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE PRG

REF: (A) STATE 277522 (B) NEW DELHI 16526

1. ACTION POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON JOINT SECRETARY N.B. MENON (EAST ASIA) DECEMBER 23 TO EXPRESS U.S. RESERVATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG REPRESENTATION IN NEW DELHI. MENON APOLOGIZED FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT (DECEMBER 19), BUT EXPLAINED HE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OCCUPIED WITH THE VISIT OF THE KING OF BHUTAN.

2. COUNSELOR REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE ARGUMENTATION IN REFTEL AND PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE PRG, POINTING OUT THAT PRECIPITATE ACTION NOW AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS INCREASED DRV/PRG MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO THE USG. MENON RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE GOI POLICY TOWARD THE PRG. THE GOI INTENDED TO WORK OUT SOME TYPE OF FORMAL CONTACT WITH THE PRG, BUT GOI "WAS NOT HURRYING IN ANY WAY" TO COMPLETE THIS ARRANGEMENT. MENON TWICE DEFLECTED A QUESTION ON THE TIMING OF THE ARRANGEMENT. HE SAID THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE FAR SHORT OF WHAT NORMALLY ENCOMPASSED RELATIONS WITH A SOVEREIGN STATE, ALTHOUGH HE ARGUED THE PRG DID HAVE SOME ELEMENTS OF SOVEREIGNTY. MENON ALSO SAID THE GOI HAD DISCUSSED ITS POSITION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH
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VIETNAM AND MADE THE POINT THAT THE GOI HOPED ANY ARRANGEMENT

MADE WITH THE PRG "WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE GOOD
RELATIONS WITH THE GSVN."

3. WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY ATTEMPTING TO
PRESSURE THE GOI ON THIS QUESTION. IMPLICIT IN MENON'S REMARKS
WAS THE MESSAGE THAT TALKS WITH THE PRG ARE GOING VERY
SLOWLY, AND THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF A FORMAL
ARRANGEMENT. IF WE LOBBY TOO VIGOROUSLY WE MIGHT SPUR THE
INDIANS INTO AN ACTION THEY WILL OTHERWISE TAKE ONLY IN THEIR
OWN GOOD TIME.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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